

Buckeye AIRLIFTER



January / February 2008

The 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, Mansfield, OH

Integrity: Being the best you can be

By Lt Col Curtiss Wagner
Chaplain

For the past several months, we have been studying the topic of integrity in our Bible Study that meets every other Thursday in the 2nd floor training room of Building 422 at 11:30 a.m.

You may also recognize that integrity is one of the core values of the Air Force. Integrity is an important character quality for everyone in our wing, not just those in leadership positions. When we function in a large group where everyone must trust each other, integrity is especially important.

Integrity can be defined as what your character is, even when no one is looking or knows what you have done. Integrity means that we choose to do what is right even when it is not popular or when it costs us. We choose to do what is right because it is right.

Living by integrity results in people being able to depend on you and when they can trust and depend on you, they are willing to follow you. Living by integrity also is much less stressful because you don't have to worry about covering over something you have done or being found out.

Proverbs 10:9 in the Bible tells us "he who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out." There are many people who believe that they can deceive other people, but eventually the truth always comes out.

There are many areas of our life where integrity comes into play. Integrity is especially important in our speech. When we say we will do something, do we follow through and do that? When we say something good about someone, do we really mean it? Is what we say always the truth, or do we "bend" the truth sometimes to protect ourselves or to avoid something unpleasant? Even what people call "white lies" are still lies. Integrity means that we are people who stick to our word.

Integrity is also important in relationships. A person of integrity will be loyal and faithful to their friends and family. Even in the difficult moments of a relationship, a person of integrity will not abandon those close to them. A person of integrity will be willing to even make sacrifices for others in order to promote peace. They

will be willing to forgive others and not hold grudges, nor bring up past wrongdoings.

Integrity is especially seen in the way we use our money and possessions. Money is not evil and having a lot of money is not evil, but the "love" of money can lead us into all kinds of trouble. 1 Timothy 6:10 tells us that "the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

As we all know, the desire for "more" can cause people to make choices that they would not normally make. A person of integrity learns the great art of being content with what they have and will not give in to the temptation to do something wrong for the sake of more money.

Living a life of integrity does indeed enable us to walk securely and it enables those around us to depend on us and trust us. This is important for all of us as we work together and deploy together.

Monthly Spotlight

By SSgt Jessica Q. Cauvel
Public Relations Journalist

Many of us frequently use hand held radios while on base. They are an easy way to stay in contact and mobile at the same time. What or who keeps these radios from being nothing more than "bricks" as they are commonly called?

Meet Senior Airman Erik Huff, hand held radio maintainer. Huff, a member of the 179th Communications Flight, has been with the unit for two years and is responsible for setting up, inventorying, and maintaining the hand held radios on base.

way to help pay for the Pharmacy degree he was pursuing at OSU Mansfield. After completing 1 ½ years of his degree, Huff was persuaded by his friends, who work at the base, to join their shop and partake of the tuition assistance and GIBill.

After joining, Huff signed up to travel to the American-Mexican border in support of Operation Jump Start. While there for a four month tour, Huff was responsible for the set up, inventory and maintenance of the hand held radios used by troops and law officials guarding the border



from illegal crossings.

Since joining, Huff has decided to remain in the Guard. He noted that thanks to the superior leadership of his chain of command, he has decided to make a career at the 179th.

Basic: Surviving trials through one Airman's eyes

By Airman Basic Joseph Harwood
Public Relations Photojournalist

My Basic Training experience has been one of the hardest experiences I've ever encountered. On a mental level, it has tested me daily. I feel exhausted at the end of each day. Physically, it has demanded that I push myself to the point of faint dizzy spells, soaked in sweat. Every time I feel I'm getting the hang of things, the bar is raised. BMT does not get easier, you get better.

There is a fellowship/ brotherhood that exist in each flight. These individuals experience the same hardships and highlights of their shared existence in this moment in time. Each brings something different to the table, and it's amazing to see us transform as each week passes by.

When we arrived, this place was terrifying. During "Zero Week," you live in constant fear, stressed to the point of constipation. They come in during the middle of the night screaming at you. They want you to "make the walls sweat," and they do their best to make that happen. Every man has a puddle under them when it's over. It's all because of something ridiculous like a sock misplaced or a shoe unaligned or the laces not loosened properly.

You can't look at the small picture. Those laces represent "attention to detail" and it's simply to demonstrate that you can follow simple instructions without question of "why?" No trainee understands this during the first weeks. What they immediately think is, "What have I done!?" or "I cannot believe I have to do this for six weeks!" It's an overwhelming thought process.

But actually, you go through phases. It's a daily grind that speeds up as you go. Zero week will feel like an eternity, time moves very slowly when you feel vulnerable. A moment in fear stands time still. Every move you make can or will be corrected with a punishment of any training instructor's choice. You have to pay attention, keeping your mouth shut and your ears open. There is no other productive choice. There is a ton of information to take in all at once for the first two weeks and you will feel overwhelmed, frustrated, homesick, depressed,

and degraded. In short, they will break you down.

You are now a moldable putty that can easily be shaped into the foundation of an Airman. You are accepting your role in BMT at this point rather it be a leader or a follower, but you will not "arrive" until you are being both. Knowing when to lead and when to follow is not going to come natural for most, because prior to BMT each individual can be placed into one group or the other. When they leave Lackland, they will be better at both. The cliché "there is no 'I' in TEAM" is understood and applied.

After being "broke down" as an individual you are "built up." In a new and exciting way... you are seeing transformations in the way you look at yourself, present yourself to others and ultimately the way others treat you.

Nobody makes it through BMT without realizing a lot about themselves. When you think of decisions you made in the past, you really notice in your mindset. When people expect more out of you, you put more thought into your actions prior to your decisions. Pushing yourself more than you ever would have when people expected so little of you.

If you think of BMT as a horrible experience, then likely it will be. If you just go through the motions you will not feel these transformations. Your mind is a very powerful tool. It is your greatest strength and your weakest link. It is crucial that you make a conscious effort to see the glass as half full. An optimist mindset will give you an edge in life. Remember that someone always has it worse.

You never appreciate things until they are gone. BMT will remove things you have always taken for granted. For instance, time

to savor your meal. I never in a million years would have truly appreciated a sit down dinner had I not experienced the "chow hall." When you can relax, chew and taste each bite without a single person telling you that you are "done"... well that's an amazing feeling that I will always cherish with every meal three times daily for life. Without BMT, I would have never realized the freedom I had.

The attention to detail with hospital corners and the perfect wrinkle free clothing drawer, a real pain in BMT, but for the rest of my life I will notice these details and feel the urge to fix them.

I will no doubt live a cleaner and healthier lifestyle and naturally try to organize my personal items in a more efficient way because I will feel sloppy now if I don't. I would have never noticed the toothpaste buildup around my cap before, let alone clean it up after I used it. I am only using that as one example, because the list of minor details goes on indefinitely.

The bottom line is that any Airman has an acquired heightened sense to detail and will apply it naturally to everything they do subconsciously. That will no doubt help set anyone up for success in life.

I cannot pretend that I am a great ex-

ample of how an Airman should look or act. What I can say is that BMT has made me realize how I should act, how I should be, and what qualities to look for in people. That training is just what it is called, Basic. That's more than most will ever know in the general public.

With this knowledge, one can apply what they have been taught to everything in life, and proudly consider themselves better for it.

Basic Military Training isn't always fun, isn't always easy, but neither is life. We live and we're lucky we grow from it.



Photo taken from About.com



Chief's Corner

By CMSgt Randy Dunham
179th AW Human Resource Adviser

BRAC, Reset and TFI have thrown some ominous career challenges at our Airmen. If those terms are foreign to you, then you probably haven't been affected by any of them. But, it's likely at least one of the three recent programs has impacted your career.

Now, more than ever, it's important for our Airmen to actively manage his or her career. It's the responsibility of that Airman to be ready at any given time and during any given situation to rise to the occasion.

Being ready doesn't only mean to be PME commensurate and to have that 7-level in your career field. It also means that you've prepared yourself to be marketable.

Consider this scenario. Aerial Port is resetting its manpower to be consistent with other C-130 units – in other words, all C-130 units in the country will have the same manning documents. Thus, the 179th Aerial Port is losing several positions on the manning document. It has nothing to do with BRAC – it's solely a "right-sizing" issue.

In this scenario, the options available to the Airmen are to retrain and stay in Mansfield, to separate either through retirement or through ETS, or to transfer to the Aerial Port at another base in the state.

If you choose the first or last option, you are probably not the only person with the same goal – to earn a new position at Mansfield or at the other Aerial Port. Thus, there will be tough competition between the candidates. The hiring officials will have to consider education level (college degree or no college degree), military accomplishments, community involvement, PME, skill level, and a plethora of other qualifications.

Therefore, it's imperative that you have pulled all stops and taken advantage of every opportunity the Guard and your civilian employer has given you. Some suggestions:

- Get registered for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program on time and then actually use it – go to college or a technical school.

- Volunteer to participate in the mentoring initiative by using MyEDP

- Do your CDCs – and don't just pass, pass with pizzazz because you can use that final score as a bullet on your resume.

- PME, PME, PME – get it done at the earliest opportunity so when the position opens or the stripe becomes available, you're the most and best qualified.

- Deploy or volunteer for additional days/training in your unit. The best training any of us can get is by actually doing the job repetitively.

- Own your job – don't go through the motions. Simply, choose what you do and be the best at it. It doesn't matter if you're a crew chief or a cook or a cop – be the best, give it your all.

- Provide feedback – formal and informal. Tell your boss what you need and tell your subordinates what they need. Then document it on a 931 or 932. Honesty goes a long way – be tough enough to say the baby is ugly and be sensitive enough to say you genuinely care.

- Get involved in your base – sit on councils, committees and boards. But, don't just sit – do something. Again, be the best at it.

- Keep your nose clean – avoid the post-game, car-tipping, couch-fire-setting parties. Your record will follow you and, in some cases, precede your arrival.

- Keep a balance – family, employer, church, community.

- Smile – look like you care, act like it's urgent, demonstrate by actions.

Toby Keith says in his country music hit "American Soldier" that "you can bet I stand ready when the wolf growls at the door..." Well, the wolf is BRAC, TFI and Reset...and it's not only growling – it's huffing and puffing. Let's just hope you've built your career out of brick and not sticks and stones or straw.

Several non-commissioned officers from the 179th have moved into more strategic leadership roles with the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association.

Master Sgt. Mike Schaefer, the Retention Officer Manager here, has become the treasurer for the organization, moving up from the Area II director's position. Replacing him is Chief Master Sgt. Tom Jones, the LRS superintendent.

As treasurer, Schaefer will handle all financial responsibilities for the association. Those duties include investment management, budget compliance, monthly bill payment and many other significant tasks.

As Area II director, Jones will handle all Air Guard membership initiatives for the northeastern portion of the state including recruiting, benefits, marketing and other functions.

Chief Master Sgt Gary Wright, the Communications Flight superintendent, has been appointed the Financial Committee chairman. His duties include identifying investment opportunities for the association and providing oversight to the

treasurer. Other 179th members are also active in the association.

Master Sgt. John Willis, human resource remote representative, serves as the chairman of the AGR committee where he provides representation to all Air Guard AGR members.

Senior Airman Ryan Armstrong, a crew chief, serves as the chair of the junior enlisted committee representing all junior Airmen in the Ohio Air Guard.

Chief Master Sgt. Randy Dunham is the president of the association. ONGEA is an affiliate of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Together the organizations work on behalf of the enlisted men and women of the National Guard. ONGEA recently worked with state legislators to introduce and support House Bill 372, which was signed into law on Dec. 20 by Governor Strickland. Starting Jan 1, military pensions are exempt from the state income tax.

To become a member of the ONGEA, or any other professional organization, contact Dunham at ext. 214.

Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Program

Attached is the formal application for the Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship(s). Please follow all instructions carefully and attach all documents that are required. It is preferred that the application form be typed or printed as neatly as possible.

This application must be completed with all documentation attached and returned to: Mansfield Lahm Military Families, c/o Ms. Debra Robinson, 2503 Alta West Road, Mansfield, OH 44903-8232. It must be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2008**. It is important that you keep to the above mentioned deadline or your application will be returned without action.

The deadline will be observed in all instances. Applications must include all required information to be considered. Application forms may be obtained in the Lobby of Bldg. 422 and or in the orderly room of each squadron.

Scholarships will be announced through the mail and proceeds will be awarded when verification of the student's enrollment has been received by the Scholarship Chairperson. Verification can be in the form of a letter, invoice, or other proof of enrollment from the student's college / university registrar's office.

Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Program and Criteria

Mansfield Lahm Military Families will be awarding five (5) \$500 Scholarships for the 2008 - 2009 academic year. An impartial panel of judges will rank the scholarship applications.

Scholarship Requirements:

The following persons are eligible:

1. Children, grandchildren and spouses of active or retired 179th AW Air National Guardsman.
2. Unmarried dependent children of deceased 179th AW ANG members who were in good standing at the time of their death.

The following persons are ineligible:

1. Current members of the National Guard.

Academic criteria:

1. Applicants must be enrolled as either a high school senior (in good standing) or a full-time student at a college, university, trade or business school in order to receive funds.
2. Must have at least 2 semesters left for degree completion.

GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

The Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Committee will award scholarship grants as approved by the MLMF Executive Board. Grants will be sent directly to the recipient with each check made payable to the recipient school of choice. To receive the grant, verification of enrollment is necessary.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and need.

All applications will be accompanied by:

1. Transcript of High School Credits (and college credits if applicable).
2. Letter from applicant with facts as to his/her desire to continue his/her education, comments about their individual future goals and objectives, and comments as to the value that this financial aid will afford.
3. Three (3) letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving personal traits. (High School principal, counselor, dean, professor, minister, employer, etc.)

Upon selection of recipients a photograph suitable for publication may be requested, but no photograph should be sent with the application.

If the student is granted a scholarship and fails to complete the school term for reasons other than illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances, the student agrees to return any scholarship money to the Mansfield Lahm Military Families.

**Scholarship Application
Mansfield Lahm Military Families**

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
Last First Middle

HOME ADDRESS: _____

Number Street P.O. Box or Apt. #
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: () _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT/SPONSOR _____
Rank Full name

ACTIVE OR RETIRED (A/R): _____ YEARS OF SERVICE (IF RETIRED): _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ () _____
Home address/City/State/Zip Phone Number

Relationship to Sponsor Enlistment Expiration Date Unit/Squadron
(If active)

APPLICANT'S STATUS: (Check one) High School () Business/Trade School () College ()

School/College & Grade/Term _____

Have you received any other scholarships? (if so, please specify) _____

List Activities (School, Community, Church): _____

List offices to which you have been elected in Any Organization: _____

List Honors which you have been awarded: _____

List College/ Trade/Business School you plan to attend or are currently attending: _____

What career are you planning to pursue and why? _____

If you need additional space to answer , please attach a separate sheet to this form.

I have answered the above questions to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant/Date

Signature of Parent or Spouse/Date

If granted a scholarship and I fail to complete the school term for reasons other than illness and injury, I agree to return any scholarship money to the Mansfield Lahm Military Families.

Signature of Applicant/Date

(This application can be reproduced for applicant purposes.)

Annual Clergy Day

Attention all unit personnel, on May 3, 2008, the base Chaplains' Office is hosting its 5th Annual Clergy Day.

This is an opportunity for you to invite your local pastor or priest to join us for the day to learn more about the mission of the 179th.

The day will begin with registration at 0830 followed by an address from the Wing Commander and the Wing Chaplain.

We will then have a time for your clergy to tour the base and take a flight on a C-130.

The morning will conclude with your clergy joining you for lunch.

If you are interested in inviting your clergy you may contact the Chaplains office for more details at extension 376. There is more information we will need from both you and your clergy.

The deadline to get registered will be on April 12th.



The month of **January** is the celebration of the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King**. A part of one of his many famous speeches is as follows:

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

Twenty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., uttered these words, Public Law 98-144 was enacted, designating the third Monday in January as a Federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birthday. George Washington is the only other American whose birthday has been a Federal holiday.

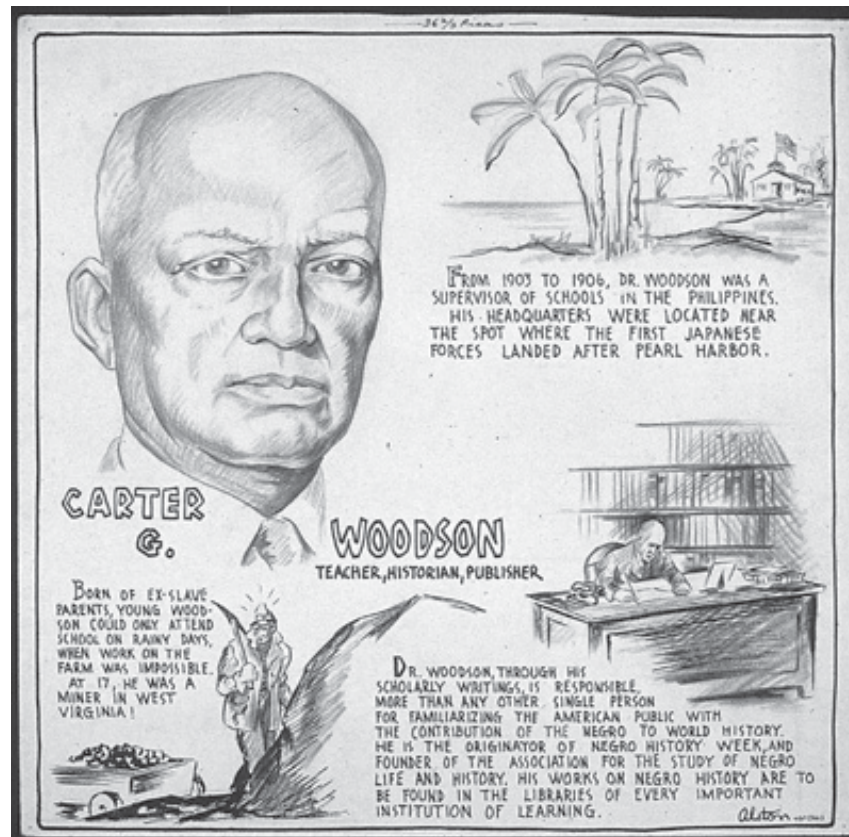
Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. In September 1944, when he was only 15 years old, King entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and at the young age of 19 he graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in sociology. Less than 10 years later, on June 5, 1955, Martin Luther King, Jr., received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University.

It was not his educational accomplishments, however, that made Dr. Martin Luther King a great man, it was his non-violent approach to social injustice that made him a great man.

One of his greatest achievements was his election as President of the Montgomery Improvement Association formed to coordinate the bus boycott of 1955. It was a boycott to integrate the bus system with a projected one day boycott. However, the Montgomery Improvement Association requested certain requests be respected such as courteous treatment by the bus operators; passengers be seated on a first-come, first-served basis; and that Negro bus operators be employed on predominantly Negro routes. The proposed one day boycott lasted 382 days with the final outcome that on November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court affirmed the decision of a special U.S. District Court which declared Alabama's state and local laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional.

Dr. Martin Luther King was instrumental in many changes within society and preached about love, equality and non-violence – not only preached about them, but lived these qualities. For more information regarding Dr. Martin Luther King go to www.mlkmemorial.org.

February 2008
Black History Month



Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.

These are the words of Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished Black author, editor, publisher, and historian (December 1875 - April 1950). Carter G. Woodson believed that Blacks should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country. He strongly believed that Black history - which others have tried so diligently to erase - is a firm foundation for young Black Americans to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Known as the “**Father of Black History**,” Carter G. Woodson holds an outstanding position in early 20th century American history. Woodson authored numerous scholarly books on the positive contributions of Blacks to the development of America. He also published many magazine articles analyzing the contributions and role of Black Americans. He reached out to schools and the general public through the establishment of several key organizations and founded Negro History Week (precursor to Black History Month). His message was that Blacks should be proud of their heritage and that other Americans should also understand it.